

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings reflect changes to Figs. 2 and 11 and replace the original sheets of these Figures. Annotated sheets showing the changes made to figures 2 and 11 are also provided.

Attachments: 2 Replacement Sheets for Figs. 2 and 11.

2 Annotated Sheets showing changes made to Figs. 2 and 11

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 7, 8 and 13 are rejected and claims 4-6 and 9-11 are objected to. By this amendment, claims 1-3, 7, 8 and 12-16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 4 and 9 are amended. No new matter is introduced.

Objection to Drawings

The drawings have been objected to as set forth in the Office Action at ¶1, p2. Specifically, the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference numerals 107F on page 5 of the specification, and 7F recited on page 9, line 15. Figs 2 and 11 have been corrected to include --107F-- and --7F--, respectively, which were inadvertently incorrectly identified on these figures as "107A" and "7A". Replacement sheets and annotated sheets (with changes circled in red) are attached for Figs. 2 and 11. No new matter is introduced.

Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to the drawings are hereby satisfied and requests that they be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 7, 8 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Petasch et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/02576683). Claims 1, 2 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yasuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,271). Claims 1, 3 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sandstrom (U.S. Patent No. 6,747,783). Claims 12, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petasch et al. (U.S. Patent

Application Publication No. 2004/02576683) in view of either Komatsuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,526,118) or Komatsuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,781,671). Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,118) in view of Petasch et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/02576683).

Claim 15 has also been objected to for stated informalities.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the prior art and of the claims in the stated rejections, and respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claims 1-3, 7, 8 and 12-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering their rejection/objection moot. Applicant respectfully requests that the respective rejections/objections be withdrawn. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these canceled claims in a continuing application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-6 and 9-11 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4 and 9 have been amended accordingly. Specifically, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of canceled claim 1, and claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of canceled claims 1 and 7, from which they respectively depended.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is hereby placed in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

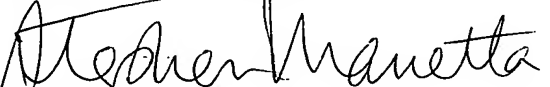
AUTHORIZATION

While no fees or extension of time are believed necessary for this Amendment, should an extension of time be required for the timely submission of this paper, such extension is hereby petitioned, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5381.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: December 12, 2005

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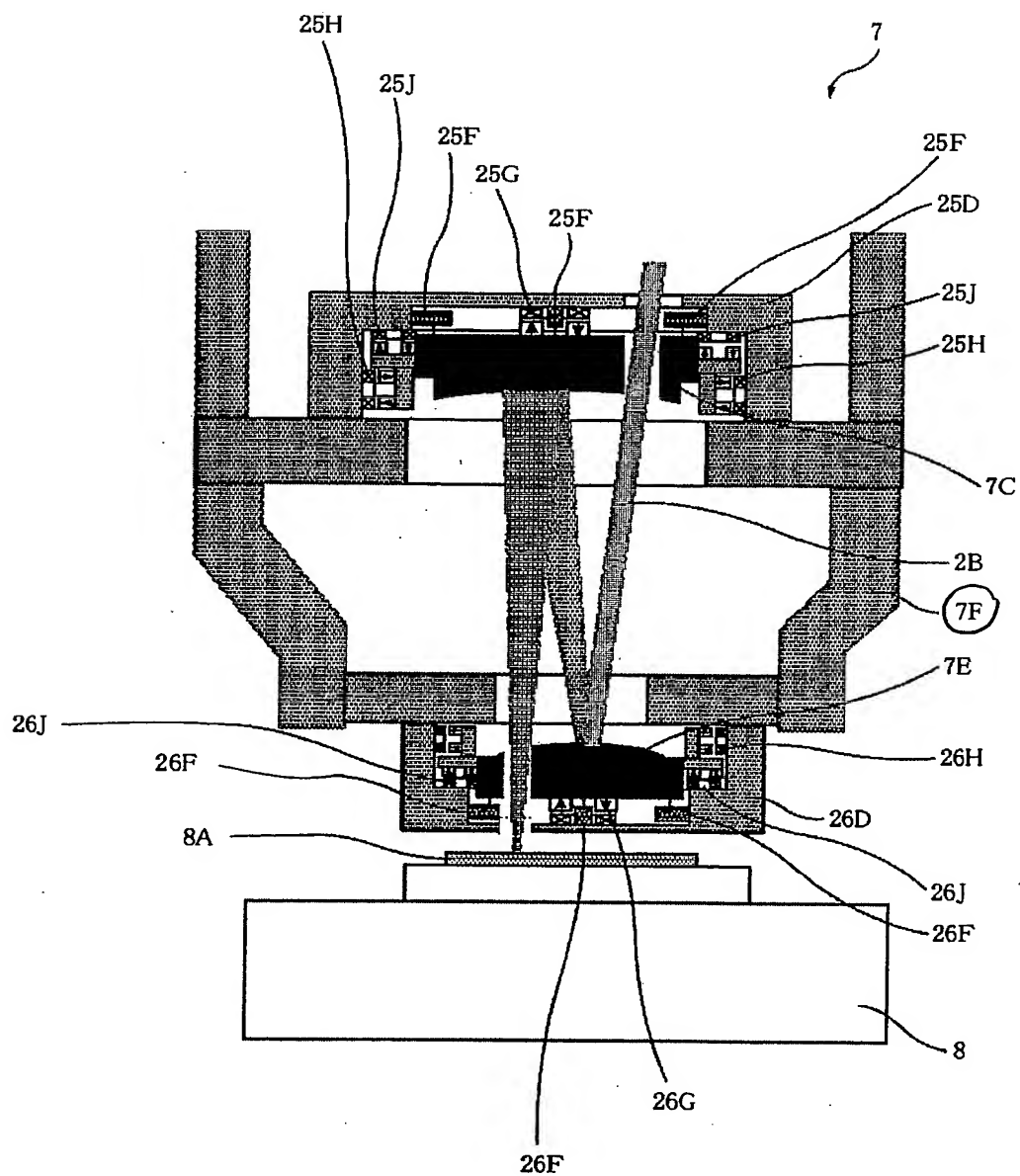


FIG. 2

PRIOR ART

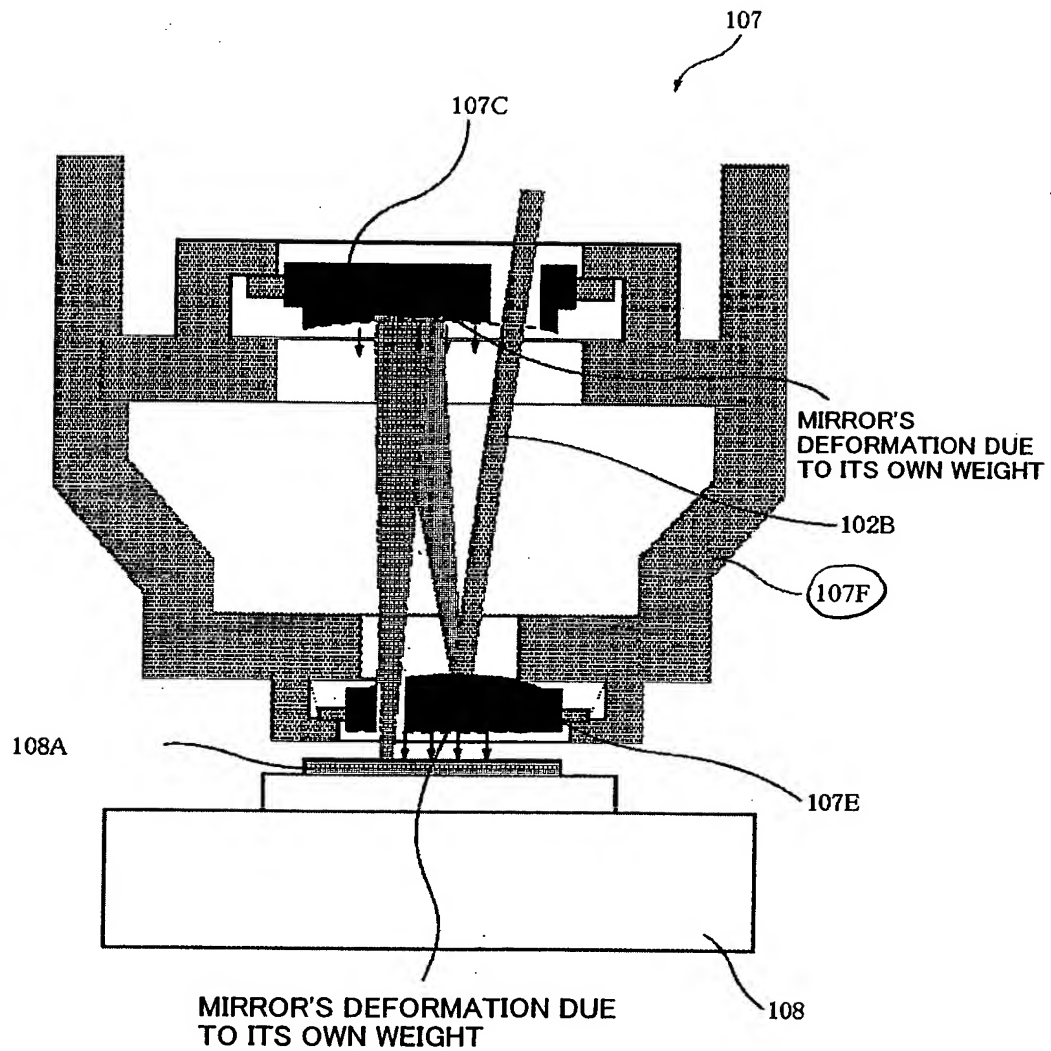


FIG. 11

